



**Jeff Sessions**  
UNITED STATES SENATOR • ALABAMA

**FAX**

**TO:** Acting Commissioner David Aguilar

**OFFICE:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection

**FAX NO:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**FROM:** Office of Senator Jeff Sessions – Staff Contact: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**PHONE:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**DATE:** February 6, 2012

**PAGES** (including this cover sheet): 3

**NOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ **D.C. OFFICE**  
 335 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20510-0104  
 Phone: (202) 224-4124  
 Fax: (202) 224-3149

☐ **BIRMINGHAM**  
 341 Vance Federal Building  
 1800 Fifth Avenue North  
 Birmingham, AL 35203-2171  
 Phone: (205) 731-1500  
 Fax: (205) 731-0221

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 200 Clinton Avenue, N.W.  
 Huntsville, AL 35801-4932  
 Phone: (256) 533-0979  
 Fax: (256) 533-0745

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 Colonial Bank Centre, Suite 2300-A  
 41 West I-65 Service Road North  
 Mobile, AL 36608-1201  
 Phone: (251) 414-3083  
 Fax: (251) 414-5845

☐ **MONTGOMERY OFFICE**  
 7550 Halcyon Summit Drive  
 Suite 150  
 Montgomery, AL 36117  
 Phone: (334) 244-7017  
 Fax: (334) 244-7091

JEFF SESSIONS  
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**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0104

January 31, 2012

Mr. David V. Aguilar  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Commissioner Aguilar:

I am writing to bring your attention to a matter of great importance to some of my constituents.

Standard Furniture Manufacturing Co, Inc. (Standard), an American furniture producer based in Bay Minette, Alabama, employs nearly 600 people in my state. I am advised that Standard has brought a lawsuit to the Court of International Trade (CIT) challenging the legality of parts of the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (CDSOA). As a result, in February 2011, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agreed to hold \$10 million for Standard until January 31, 2012, pending the resolution of the lawsuit. It is my understanding that CBP has decided to continue withholding these funds until March. I appreciate CBP's decision to continue holding these funds so the lawsuit can resolved.

For many years, Standard has been a substantial employer in south Alabama. Standard's continued presence in the area provides employment and tax revenue that is crucial to the community. If it were not for Standard, unemployment in Baldwin and Monroe counties – 7.4% and 13.4% respectively – would be even higher.

Standard challenges the constitutionality of parts of CDSOA. They deserve a fair hearing in our court system. I do not wish to indicate that I have in any way reviewed the legal merits of this lawsuit, but it appears that withholding these funds until the case is resolved makes sense today just as it made sense in 2011. The attached letters from local officials demonstrate the community's strong support for Standard. I appreciate CBP's assistance to Standard up to this point, and I hope you continue to monitor the progress of this lawsuit so the withheld funds are released at an appropriate time.

**BIRMINGHAM**

341 VANCE FEDERAL BUILDING  
1800 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203-2171  
(205) 731-1800

**HUNTSVILLE**

REGIONS CENTER, SUITE 802  
300 CLINTON AVENUE, N.W.  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35891-4632  
(256) 633-0879

**MOBILE**

BB&T CENTRE, SUITE 2300A  
41 WEST I-65 SERVICE ROAD NORTH  
MOBILE, AL 36608-1281  
(251) 414-3083

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**MONTGOMERY**

7550 HALCYON SUMMIT DRIVE  
SUITE 150  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36117  
(334) 244-7017

**WIREGRASS**

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, SUITE 302  
100 WEST TROY STREET  
DOTHAN, AL 36302  
(334) 792-4824

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January 30, 2012

I appreciate you taking the time to consider this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Jeff Sessions  
United States Senator

Enclosures

JS: gh